

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-MAY 12, 2003

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:32 p.m. in the Council chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bellm, Haddad, Hawkins, Holinko, Paterson, Rosen, Schaefer, Martin, Thorkelson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to approve the minutes of April 28, 2003 as presented.

So Passed. Mr. Bellm abstained.

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to approve the minutes of April 30, 2003 as presented.

So passed. Mr. Bellm abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mr. Richard Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, spoke on Spring Weekend at the University of Connecticut. He disagreed with the reports given by the Police and the University on the weekend. He would not have given the police such high marks for performance. Mailboxes on Hunting Lodge Road had all been vandalized by Saturday morning. All area hospitals were put on alert for the weekend and many persons were transported for treatment. He felt that the media before the weekend did not do the event any good because all the publicity just gave an open invitation to everyone to come to Mansfield. He asked if the Town was paying for a legal opinion by the Town Attorney on the closing or restricting of certain roadways in the party areas. The Mayor informed him that the Town Attorney gave his time for free.

Janice Hoyle, Bassets Bridge Road, presented the Council with a petition of seniors who are in support of the walking track in the Community Center. 27 Mansfield residents signed the petition.

Aline Booth, Wormwood Hill Road, urged the Council to accept the gift for the walking track in the Community Center. This facility will be a tremendous service to the seniors who will feel safe walking during all kinds of weather on an indoor track. She feels that many seniors will purchase memberships in the Community Center if the track is installed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Issues regarding the UConn Landfill including the UConn Consent Order, Public Participation Relative to the Consent Order and Well Testing.

The Town Manager reported the round 10 of sampling of wells has been completed. There is nothing new to report, however the monitoring of the wells will continue for a few more years.

2. Underage Drinking on Private Property

Mr. Kevin Grunwald, Director of Social Services, spoke on this issue. He researched the various towns that have adopted ordinances on this problem. By consensus the staff will continue to monitor the progress of state legislation that would address this issue and request the resident state trooper to further investigate the viability of the enforcement of an ordinance regulating underage drinking on private property.

3. Community Center Walking Tract

Mr. Bellm moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to enter into executive session to discuss negotiated contracts regarding financial gift to the Community Center for the walking track.

So passed unanimously. Council left at 7:55 p.m. Council returned at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Bellm moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to come out of executive session and return to the regular meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Martin moved that effective, May 12, 2003, to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with the potential donors and to receive a donation of \$250,000.00 towards the purchase of an indoor walking track for the Mansfield Community Center and any funds not dedicated for a specific item and any subsequent donations not earmarked, first go towards this project to cover this amount. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion.

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Martin seconded to call the question.

Roll call vote: In Favor: Hawkins, Holinko, Rosen, Martin

Against: Bellm, Haddad, Paterson, Schaefer, Thorkelson

Motion failed. Discussion continued.

Vote taken on motion. So passed.

Mr. Thorkelson voted against. Mr. Bellm abstained.

V. NEW BUSINESS

4. Appointment of Town Council Member to Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc.

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to appoint Mr. Al Hawkins to the

Partnership Board for a three-year term to end June 30, 2006.

So passed unanimously.

5. Funding of CCM Lawsuits Against the State for PILOT and Town Aid Road Grant

Mr. Haddad moved that effective May 12, 2003, to authorize the Town Manager to express the town's interest in participating in the mutual financing of town lawsuits that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities brought against the State of Connecticut to compel the state to pay municipalities under town grant programs-Payments in Lieu of Taxes for New Machinery and Equipment, and Town Aid Road.

Mr. Hawkins seconded motion.

Motion so passed unanimously.

6. Troyer Trail License

Mr. Thorkelson moved that, effective May 12, 2003, to authorize the Town Manager to execute an agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Mr. John Troyer to provide the town with a license to utilize for open space and limited recreational purposes a portion of the area designated on Assessor's map 27 block 55.

Seconded by Mr. Hawkins.

Motion so passed unanimously.

7. Financial Statements Dated March 31, 2003

Mr. Schaefer moved that effective May 12, 2003, to refer the Financial Statements dated March 31, 2003 to the Finance Committee.

Seconded by Mr. Martin.

So passed unanimously.

8. Capital Projects Fund

Mr. Thorkelson moved that effective May 12, 2003 to adopt the adjustments to the Capital Projects Fund, as presented by the Director of Finance in his memorandum dated April 22, 2003.

Seconded by Mr. Schaefer.

Motion so passed unanimously.

9. Disability Insurance, Sick Leave and Retiree Health Savings Plan Proposal

Mr. Schaefer moved the following resolution and motions:

Resolved, to adopt the attached resolution dated May 12, 2003 creating a Vantagecare Retiree Health Savings Plan for Town of Mansfield employees and to authorize the Town Manager to expend up to \$303,000 in reserve funds to initiate the plan and to design and implement a five-year repayment plan through appropriations from the Capital Non-recurring Fund (CNR).

Move, to authorize the Town Manager to expend up to \$21,000 in budgeted contingency funds to implement short and long-term disability insurance plans for non-union and police employees.

Move, effective May 12, 2003 to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate a side agreement with the Civil Service Employees Affiliates, Local 760-Police in order to establish disability insurance plans and retiree health savings accounts for that group of employees.

Seconded by Mr. Hawkins.

Motion so passed unanimously.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

VII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Personnel Committee-Mr. Rosen reported that the committee needs to have the evaluation form for the Town Manager by May 27th meeting. The results will be discussed on June 9, 2003.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson reported on an Agriculture day on Saturday, September 20 from 9-3 p.m.

UConn has received accreditation for the Police Department

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager will be sending a letter to the Siting Council that the proposed Short Tower to be built on Rte 44 and 32 must go through the same process as any cell tower planning to be built. The Siting Council will be meeting in June in the Council Chamber to hear public comment.

On May 1 the Downtown Partnership held a public meeting with the managing consultants. The meeting was attended by 75-100 people and was quite successful.

Last week the Town Manager, Mayor and Assistant Town Manager attended the memorial service for long-time Senior Center past President Phil Fitchandler. Mr.

Fitchandler has been an active member of the community and we will miss him.

Last week was the final meeting with consulting team on the Lands of Unique Value which is part of the Plan of Development. The final report will be on the web.

The Water Supply study has been completed. The Manager and staff will be discussing this study with the University of Connecticut.

The Town Manager attended the State of Connecticut's Greenways Ceremony in Willimantic. Governor Rowland also attended the program. Awards were presented to Joshua's Trust and the Willimantic River Alliance

X. FUTURE AGENDAS

Police staffing and coverage in the town.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

10.L. Schilling re: Environmental Impact Evaluation for Graduate Student Apartments and Downtown Mansfield Master Plan Projects.

11.Results of Regional School District #19 FY 2003/04 Budget Referendum

12.M. Berliner re: J.Xu Appointment to Library Board

13.G. Padick re: Plan of Conservation and Development Update

14.L. Hultgren and T. Webb re: Crew Work Schedule- 2003 Construction Season

15.J.Kaufman re: Upcoming Fun, Family Educational Events Sponsored by Friends of Mansfield Parks

16.P. Austin re: April 28, 2003 Letter to the Community

17.Office of Policy and Management re: 2001 Equalized New Grand List

18.CCM re: CT Supreme Court Decision in Spears v. Garcia

19.WINCOG re: Rural Minor collector Program WINCOG Priorities

20.Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. Press Release-"Discover the Little Known Treasures of the Last Green Valley"

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk

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